



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Natalie B. Billing, Representatives Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joe Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Lori Bartinik, Alicia Bauer, Nancy E. Beckwith, Joyce F. Bergeson, Laurie Kim Briggs, Genevieve Cerf, Michael Collins, Warren T. Cooper, Nancy S. Driscoll, Syma Ebbin, June Evered, Peter Fairbank, Melissa M. Finlayson, Irene B. Garagliano, Robert Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Wendy L. Hellekson, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, James Loughlin, Lisa M. Luck, Jackie Massett, Carole McCarthy, Richard Metayer, Betsy Moukawsher, Scott Newsome, Deborah Peruzzotti, Kevin Power, Betty A. Prochaska, Don Pratt, Jack Sebastian, Jennifer Smuts, Eleanor Steere, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, and Cheryl Tilney

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

7:30 PM

Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

Town Clerk Tarbox called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. in the absence of Moderator Billing who notified the office that she is unable to attend.

25 members were present, and a quorum was declared. (Rep. Collins arrived at 7:45 p.m.)

Members Present: Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Briggs, Rep. Collins, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Evered, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Garagliano, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hellekson, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Power, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer and Rep. Tilney

Members Absent: Moderator Billing, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Bergeson, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Finlayson, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Metayer, Rep. Moukawsher, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Smuts and Rep. Steere

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.

B. Election of Moderator Pro Tempore

Town Clerk Tarbox opened the floor for nominations to elect a Moderator Pro Tempore.

A motion to nominate Rep. Svencer was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Ebbin. The Town Clerk called for further nominations. Hearing none, she declared nominations closed.

The motion to elect Rep. Svencer as Moderator Pro Tempore carried unanimously.

The Town Clerk requested a few moments to review information with Moderator Pro Tem Svencer.

C. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag led by Rep. Power.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2008

A motion that the minutes be adopted was made by Rep. Ebbin, seconded by Rep. Driscoll.

The motion carried 22 in favor, 2 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Fairbank and Prochaska).

E. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

F. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator Svencer noted that Reps. Baril, Bartinik, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti, Pratt and Sebastian

called to say they are unable to attend.

The Moderator offered congratulations to Rep. Bartnik who recently gave birth to a baby girl and wished good luck to Rep. Hellekson who is counting the minutes to her delivery. He informed members that the RTM will be holding its October meeting at the Senior Center. He announced that copies of the amended Rules of the Twenty-Sixth RTM are available on the table in the rear of the hall.

2008-0212 Long Island Sound (LIS) Grant - Esker Point Park Shelter

This matter was Referred to the RTM Recreation Committee, due back on October 8, 2008.

G. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Financial report

Mr. Vincent stated that all figures reported this evening are unaudited. He reported that the Unreserved & Undesignated Fund balance as of July 1, 2008 is approximately \$11.0 million; the General Contingency balance is \$350,000; the Capital Reserve balance is \$1,433,796. He explained that the difference in the Capital Reserve Fund balance from June 30, 2008 is due to the FYE 2009 appropriations for CIP projects which exceeded the amount transferred from the General Fund into the Capital Reserve Fund.

He noted that Senior Center activities both old and new will not be reduced or curtailed by the relocation of the center during renovations and expansion.

He announced that an on-line method for reporting malfunctioning streetlights to the proper agency is outlined in the Town Manager's News. He clarified that Groton Utilities and Northeast Utilities are responsible for different areas of the Town.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager announced that Citizenship Day will be held on September 15, 2008; the Centennial Celebration of Town Hall will be September 17, 2008; the Annual Fall Fest will be held at 10:00 a.m. and the Tercentennial Playground dedication at 11:00 a.m. on October 11, 2008 at Poquonnock Plains Park.

The Manager noted that updates on the major construction projects already in progress are included in the Town Manager's News that was distributed to the members.

He stated that the bid process has been completed and a contractor has been selected for the Animal Shelter. He noted that work on Noank School has started for the temporary relocation of the Senior Center. He anticipates that the Senior Center will be able to relocate to the temporary location by mid-November. The Manager noted that the bid for the Senior Center project will be completed soon and should be awarded on or about November 10, 2008.

The Manager stated that Town staff is preparing for another bond rating review. He noted that this has been happening annually due to the numerous projects that are currently being done by the Town.

In response to Rep. Ebbin, the Town Manager confirmed that the problem of glass embedded in the playgrounds and fields at Catherine Kolnaski School and Northeast Academy was identified during the summer. He stated that negotiations are on-going with the contractor for remediation of the problem at both schools. He explained that the possibility of litigation may prevent usage of the fields next spring if the remediation cannot be completed this fall.

In response to Rep. Driscoll, who attended the Fitch High School (FHS) dedication ceremony, the Town Manager responded that he was unaware of any reasons why the academic courtyard at FHS is not being used. He noted that the design of the courtyard was an architectural feature to provide natural light into the classrooms that surround it. He verified that the problems with the greenhouse are being addressed with the architect jointly by Town staff and school officials.

H. LIAISON REPORTS

No reports.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS**1. FINANCE****a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Granatosky**

No meeting, no report.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES**a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Peruzzotti**

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION**a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Fairbank**

No meeting, no report.

4. RECREATION**a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Power**

No meeting, no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY**a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Pratt**

No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS**a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Collins**

Rep. Granatosky read the minutes of the meeting held on September 3, 2008. She was acting Chairman at the meeting since Rep. Collins was unable to attend. (Minutes are attached.) Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Power and so voted unanimously.

2008-0188 Police Station Repair Project**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CAPITAL RESERVE PROJECT FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING REPAIRS**

WHEREAS, the Town Council at its July 22, 2008 meeting authorized and directed the Finance Department to deposit the settlement proceeds of \$57,500 pertaining to water damage at the Police Department into the Capital Reserve Fund, and

WHEREAS, the proceeds are for the designated purpose of repairing damage to the addition to the Police Department building caused by water infiltration, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes a FYE 2009 Capital Reserve Project to undertake necessary repairs and forwards this Capital Reserve Project to the RTM for approval.

A motion was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Collins, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

7. RULES & PROCEDURES**a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Evered**

No meeting, no report.

J. OTHER BUSINESS

Rep. Evered provided a brief summary of the Tri-Town Trail Committee meeting. She endorses the development of this trail and feels that it will benefit the Town.

Rep. Luck noted that she along with Reps. McCarthy, Steinfeld and Streeter attended the FHS dedication ceremony. She announced that Eric Janney and others are starting a FHS Alumni

Association.

K. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Garcia and so declared by Moderator Svencer.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk